

EF

<b>Notice of Allowability</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/761,769	PARRISH ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Mary Zettl	2884	

-- **The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**  
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-52.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.  
**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)</li> <li>2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)</li> <li>3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit<br/>of Biological Material</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)</li> <li>6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),<br/>Paper No./Mail Date _____</li> <li>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment</li> <li>8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance</li> <li>9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

***Response to Amendment***

1. The amendment filed on December 9, 2005 has been entered.

***Allowable Subject Matter***

2. Claims 1, 2, and 6-52 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1-18, Anderson et al. (US 2005/0258367 A1) teach a plurality of microbolometers including a plurality of switches including a reference voltage (page 9, paragraph 116), however Anderson et al. do not teach or make obvious the sharing of contacts within the microbolometer array. Prior art fails to teach or make obvious the selecting means comprising a first set of switches adapted to apply a reference voltage to corresponding ones of the plurality of microbolometers and a second set of switches adapted to route the output signal from corresponding ones of the plurality of microbolometers, with the first set of switches initially asserted and the second set of switches initially deasserted, the first set of switches sequentially deasserted as corresponding ones of the second set of switches coupled to the same contacts are sequentially asserted until all of the second set of switches are asserted.

Regarding claims 19-26, Anderson et al. (US 2005/0258367 A1) a bias circuit (Abstract), a load microbolometer (pages 1-2, paragraph 10) and a resistor adapted to provide temperature coefficient of resistance compensation for the load microbolometer (page 3, paragraph 44), however Anderson et al. do not teach or make obvious the sharing of contacts within the microbolometer array. Parrish et al. (US 6,812,465 B2) teach a bias circuit comprising a load microbolometer and a resistor adapted to provide

temperature coefficient of resistance for the load microbolometer, however as US 6,812,465 B2 was published less than one year from the filing date of the present application and as it is commonly assigned with the application, it can not be utilized as prior art for rejection purposes.

Regarding claims 27-37, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a first and second plurality of switches that are initially asserted and deasserted, respectively, with one of the switches from the first plurality deasserted prior to one of the switches from the second plurality being asserted which couple to the same contact, with this switching pattern repeated for the first and second plurality of switches until the second plurality of switches are all asserted.

Regarding claims 38-52, prior art fails to teach or make obvious a microbolometer array including shared contacts in which there is provided a means for selecting from among the microbolometers in the microbolometer array and providing a corresponding output signal; wherein the selecting means comprises a first set of switches adapted to apply a reference voltage to corresponding ones of the plurality of microbolometers and a second set of switches adapted to route the output signal from corresponding ones of the plurality of microbolometers, with one of the first set of switches asserted for every two of the second set of switches to provide the output signal for two of the microbolometers in corresponding columns; and means for providing temperature compensation for the output signal.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

Art Unit: 2884

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### ***Response to Arguments***

3. Applicant's arguments, see page 18, lines 8- 22, filed December 9, 2005, with respect to claims 6-10, 19-22, and 24-26 have been fully considered and are persuasive, as Parrish et al. is the best available reference and the date of this application is not valid for use as prior art. The rejection 103 (a) rejection of claims 6-10, 19-22, and 24-26 has been withdrawn.

### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mary Zettl whose telephone number is (571) 272-6007. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on (571) 272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.



**DAVID PORTA**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2884

Art Unit: 2884

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MZ